

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

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**Weather:** The cooler conditions of the previous two weeks were replaced once again by hot temperatures. Rainfall across the State was very sparse. Daytime temperatures were generally unseasonably warm, with highs in the upper nineties in several areas, but nighttime temperatures stayed cooler with the fall season approaching. Crop year moisture in Sherman County finished at just over 80 percent of normal; this is the fifth consecutive year it has finished below average. Some smoke from fires burning in California was observed in Josephine County. Medford and Corvallis both recorded high temperatures of 100 degrees or more. Medford also recorded 165 growing degree days, the largest number for the week.

**Field Crops:** Fall fieldwork continued across the State. In Baker County, the third cutting of alfalfa continued with alfalfa season ending in Wasco County. Wheat seeding was underway in most of Eastern Oregon, with some dusting and spotty emergence in early planted fields. In the Willamette Valley, fall seedbed preparations and seeding continued for grain and seed crops. Some haying, fieldwork and wheat planting ongoing in Jackson County. Most spring wheat fields harvested in Washington County.

**Vegetables:** The potato harvest was just starting in Baker County. In western areas of the State, pumpkins, squash and other fall vegetables were showing up in markets and pumpkin patches were being prepared for the u-pick season. There was still a good crop of corn, cabbage, broccoli, garlic, potatoes and salad vegetables available. The onion harvest was nearly complete in Lane County.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** The main nursery activities continued to be irrigation along with rotation of plants in containers. Some nurseries were balling shrubs and trees for fall shipment to out of State markets. Easter lily growers were harvesting bulbs and planting bulbs for next year. Christmas tree growers making plans and looking forward to harvest.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Wine grape harvest was underway in southern Oregon and in many parts of the Willamette Valley. Hazelnuts were beginning to fall throughout the Willamette Valley. Apple harvest continued in the Willamette Valley, Wasco County, and began in parts of southern Oregon. Winter pear harvest was winding down in the lower Hook River Valley; growers started applying postharvest sulfur sprays. Picking continued in the mid valley and was underway in Parkdale. Asian pears were harvested in Lane County; Comice and d'Anjous were harvested in Jackson County.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Unseasonably warm temperatures reduced the benefits of precipitation received the previous week. Pasture regrowth remains minimal across the State, prolonged precipitation needed. Ranchers were busy with fall weaning of calves, rounding up cattle, and providing supplemental feed. In Harney County, it was reported that good beef prices were encouraging early sales.

**Crop Progress Week Ending 9/28/03**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Winter wheat planted (%)	26	14	12	13
Winter wheat emerged (%)	8	—	2	2
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	6.8	—	n.a.

**Soil Moisture Week Ending 9/28/03**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	25	60	15	—
Subsoil (%)	37	45	18	—

**Crop Condition Week Ending 9/28/03**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	10	28	37	14	1

## WESTERN OREGON

**CLACKAMAS:** Seedbed preparations continue. Some grains have been seeded. Evergreen blackberry picking is essentially over. Most other caneberry crops have been renovated and are being readied for winter. Strawberries are being fertilized and cultivated. Hazelnut orchards are mostly prepared for harvest, which is beginning. Salad vegetables are readily available for local outlets. Pumpkin patches are being prepared for the U-Pick harvest. Nurseries are starting the fall shipments to out of State markets. Livestock are in good condition and still on supplemental feed. Pasture regrowth is still very limited in volume. The early September rains have nearly disappeared and more rain is needed.

**COOS\CURRY:** Warm days and cool nights with dew in the morning. Some cranberry growers were planting grass cover crops on dikes. Cool nights were helping color development. Easter lily harvest and planting routines continued unabated. Conditions continue to be very dry, with livestock operators reporting drought conditions persist (for the third year). Hay and forage production stands at or below last year's drought levels, and water sources continue to experience problems.

**JACKSON:** Haying, ground preparation, and some wheat planting were the major field activities for this weekend. Ground is very dry, and not much growth for new seeds planted. Pear harvest continued, with Comice and d'Anjou the main harvest now. Lots of grapes being picked, and wineries getting very busy now. Still some good vegetables being harvested. Lots of fall squash being picked. Some pumpkins starting to show up at markets. Nurseries and greenhouses busy with fall trees, plants, shrubs, and fall flowers. Livestock looking good, but now lots of supplemental feeding being done as pastures are drying up from the lack of rain. This week saw near record daytime high temperatures, with highs in the upper nineties and nights in the fifties. A fair weekend for outdoor work, but quite hot in the later afternoons.

**JOSEPHINE:** Pumpkins are bright and there are a couple of fields of them. Mostly grown for Halloween. Wine grapes are being picked and hauled to various wineries in the area. Table grapes for sale on many street corners. Hot daytime temperatures, average nighttime temperatures, slight breeze.

Inversion last three days has brought smoke to the Valley floor from a California fire. Livestock good on irrigated pastures. Truck gardens are doing a good business this year. Apples are ripening and crops are coming in now. Fruits seem small but crop is larger than expected. Pears are in.

**LANE:** Apples, winter pears, Asian pears in full swing of picking. Hazelnuts and walnuts falling and being harvested. Hazelnut crop looks like it will be around 1900 to 2100 pounds per acre in the south valley. Fall vegetables still coming on strong with the warm days and the cool nights. Good crops of corn, carrots, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, tomatoes, garlic, potatoes, and shallots. The cool weather will slow down tomato ripening. Late blight will start showing up soon.

**LINN:** Record high temperatures this past week. Unusually hot and dry.

**MARION:** Hot, dry weather continues to make fall work difficult. Onion harvest nearly complete. Hazelnut harvest is beginning.

**WASHINGTON:** Field corn being ensiled at a rapid pace with ideal weather conditions prevailing. Sweet corn harvest nearing completion. Everbearing strawberries and late maturing blueberries continue to be marketed. Most spring wheat fields now harvested. Pumpkins, gourds, acorn squash and other vegetables showing well at markets. Filberts falling and harvest near. Walnuts good size. Balling shrubs and trees for shipment. Potted plant rotation continues; pastures sparse.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Third cutting alfalfa still underway. Grain planting ongoing. Potato harvest just starting. Weaning and gathering of cattle from federal permits underway. A little fall greenup on rangeland from showers a couple of weeks ago. Wildlife will be primary beneficiaries.

**HARNEY:** Roundup and weaning going on across the county. Good beef prices were encouraging early sales.

**HOOD RIVER:** Winter pear harvest was winding down in the lower Hood River Valley. Growers started applying postharvest sulfur sprays. Picking continued in the Mid Valley and got underway in Parkdale.

**KLAMATH:** Return of warm weather and no frost has kept pastures growing. Grain harvest nearing completion. Last hay cutting continues. Potatoes 20 percent harvested, 100 percent knocked down.

**LAKE:** Temperatures warmed back up this week with highs in the nineties.

**MALHEUR:** Fall fieldwork is progressing rapidly. Sugarbeet harvest will begin soon near the Adrian area.

**MORROW:** Emergence of fall wheat in early planted fields is spotty. A few farmers are dusting their crop in. Most seeding will occur after the first of October.

**SHERMAN:** Some stubble reduction work continues, but mostly fertilizing and seeding are main activities. Seeding has slowed down a little as weather remains hot and dry and soil moisture stays deep. Cougars have decimated deer populations, which will affect income from fee hunting, although pheasant numbers appear good. Crop year moisture finished at 82 percent of normal, the fifth consecutive below average year. Fire danger remains high.

**UNION:** Field preparation for fall planting continues. Potato harvest underway. Temperatures this week were unseasonably warm, just like the rest of the northwest. Most of the benefits received from rain and cooler temperatures a couple of weeks ago have now been negated by this warmer weather.

**WASCO:** Warm weather prevailed through the week during the daylight hours, but the evenings are becoming cooler as fall is setting in. Winter wheat planting continued through the week, mainly on the higher elevations. Alfalfa hay season has come to a close in the Dufur valley. The only activity noted was retrieving the last hay bales out of fields. Fruit harvest continued on pears and apples. Livestock are starting to be moved to fresher pastures, including grain stubble fields.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 28, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	45	84	62	5	83	34	0.00	-0.81	0	1.89	-0.77	71	10
Crescent City	48	75	56	-3	44	-12	0.02	-0.49	2	0.34	-1.25	21	7
Florence	37	88	58	-2	56	-5	0.00	-0.71	0	1.97	-0.29	87	9
North Bend	45	77	56	-2	47	-8	0.00	-0.50	0	1.33	-0.31	81	8
Tillamook	41	81	60	4	71	26	0.00	-1.03	0	3.01	-0.43	88	10
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	45	100	69	10	136	71	0.00	-0.42	0	1.05	-0.34	76	6
Eugene	44	97	67	8	122	50	0.00	-0.42	0	0.81	-0.74	52	6
Hillsboro	46	95	68	11	130	72	0.00	-0.39	0	0.87	-0.52	63	3
McMinnville	42	98	68	10	130	65	0.00	-0.44	0	0.82	-0.68	55	6
Portland	52	95	70	10	142	67	0.00	-0.42	0	0.85	-0.78	52	6
Salem	49	98	69	11	136	73	0.00	-0.42	0	0.82	-0.61	57	5
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	47	99	71	9	148	62	0.00	-0.27	0	0.93	0.11	113	4
Medford	48	102	73	12	165	78	0.00	-0.21	0	0.86	0.06	108	2
Roseburg	49	98	71	11	151	71	0.00	-0.28	0	0.95	-0.11	90	3
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	41	86	65	11	104	66	0.00	-0.14	0	0.50	-0.19	72	3
Heppner	42	88	65	8	108	52	0.00	-0.21	0	0.46	-0.30	61	3
Hermiston	39	90	65	6	109	42	0.00	-0.07	0	0.72	0.30	171	1
John Day	45	88	67	12	120	72	0.00	-0.17	0	0.67	-0.13	84	5
Moro	41	87	66	11	113	66	0.00	-0.10	0	0.25	-0.27	48	3
Pendleton	44	88	68	9	125	56	0.00	-0.14	0	0.63	0.08	115	2
The Dalles	45	93	71	15	146	95	0.00	-0.11	0	0.07	-0.46	13	2
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	37	87	62	10	85	53	0.00	-0.07	0	0.45	0.00	100	3
Burns	29	91	62	11	86	59	0.00	-0.10	0	0.60	0.08	115	5
Klamath Falls	36	90	65	10	110	61	0.00	-0.14	0	0.60	0.09	118	3
Lakeview	30	88	62	8	88	47	0.00	-0.15	0	0.63	0.06	111	2
Redmond	31	90	61	8	82	44	0.00	-0.07	0	0.56	0.17	144	5
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	30	87	59	6	64	28	0.00	-0.14	0	0.38	-0.32	54	4
Joseph	42	82	60	12	73	53	0.00	-0.35	0	0.61	-0.65	48	7
La Grande	34	86	62	6	83	33	0.00	-0.21	0	0.35	-0.52	40	5
Union	34	87	62	8	83	44	0.00	-0.21	0	0.90	-0.08	92	8
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	37	92	65	7	108	42	0.00	-0.09	0	0.14	-0.37	27	3
Rome	38	92	66	11	117	68	0.00	-0.14	0	0.38	-0.18	68	3

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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